

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR (virtual) MEETING AUGUST 31, 2021**

ROLL CALL

Janice Allen
Sherlock Bender (absent)
Stephen Harlan (absent)
Laly Espinoza Kuga
Scott Lamperti (absent)
Steve McIntyre, Vice Chair
Katherine Miller, Chair
Peter Beckman, Alt. No. 1 (absent)

Also present:

Dominic DiYanni, Esq., Associate Borough Attorney
Stephanie Sherwood, Recording Secretary

Call to order at 7:08 pm. Ms. Sherwood read the Compliance Statement.

APPLICATIONS

COA 01-06-22-2021, 112 Linden Avenue. Rabbi Yochanan Cohen, Director of the Yeshiva Tiferes Boruch, was present. Ms. Miller thanked Rabbi Cohen for submitting the revised plans. She indicated that they would need to know the elevation of the Rockview Avenue side of the building. She noted her preference for more space between the windows, which would allow for stone arches above to match the mansion windows. Stained glass windows on the Sycamore Avenue side of the building are appropriate, she remarked. The brick chimney should extend to the ground and both entry doors should be similar in size and style.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wendy Schaefer, 110 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, shared her displeasure with the building plans, specifically that the building would not look like it had been built in 1885.

Steven Romeo, 16 Rockview Avenue, North Plainfield, voiced his concerns with the building plans, noting that the building would not fit in with the neighborhood. While it would not be feasible to duplicate the mansion, the speaker urged for the new building to share some of the same characteristics.

Rabbi Cohen agreed to make further revisions to the plans and resubmit so that the application may be heard at a future meeting.

COA 01-07-19-2021, 114 Grove Street. Timothy Ajala and Cammyline Mahaga-Ajala were present and sworn in. The Commission approved enclosing the lower back deck in 2013, Mr. Ajala reported. He then noted that they were told construction permits would not be required for the work. Ms. Miller stressed the need to confirm with the Construction Official what permits would be necessary for any work going forward. The commission only approves the design and look of the proposed work while the Construction Official has to approve the actual work. Mr. McIntyre favored cedar shakes to match the existing cedar shakes on the rest of the house and installing window frames to match the windows in the front of the house.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Wendy Schaefer, 110 Willow Avenue, North Plainfield, asked if the stained wood section of the house in rear would be painted to match the rest of the house. The Ajalas confirmed that it would be painted and all woodwork would be replaced and/or repaired in kind. The moldings around the new windows would be fitted with moldings to match the existing windows in the front of the house, if possible.

Mr. McIntyre made the following motion for COA 01-07-19-2021 for 114 Grove Street as presented by Timothy Ajala and Cammyline Mahaga-Ajala.

We approve the following at 114 Grove Street:

Enclosing of the lower deck in the rear of the house with two walls. The new windows on the driveway side shall match the style and framing of the windows in the front of the house. Cedar shake shingles which shall match the rest of the house shall be installed on the new walls. The trim above the siding shall match the trim along the porch line as closely as possible. Where they are currently missing, corbels or braces shall be installed to the lower bump out on the left side of the house and if possible, installed under the roof line on the stained addition in the rear of the house. Windows in the stained addition in the rear of the house may have framing installed to match the style of the existing window frames in the front of the house.

Seconded by Ms. Miller and on Roll Call carried all four voting aye.

Ms. Sherwood advised that the Certificate of Appropriateness would be ready within 7 – 10 business days.

COA 01-08-11-2021, 46-48 Grove Street. Ms. Miller indicated that the applicants were working on revised plans and the application would be heard at the September 28, 2021 meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. McIntyre and on voice vote carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.